

SPEAKERS

November 7 - Ken Storm, Holy Communion

November 14 - Nathan Ruonavaara

November 21 - Ken Storm

November 28 - Charles Korhonen, Potluck Meal following service

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Service:
11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study:
7:00 p.m.

CONTACT

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Continual Burnt Offering

“This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee” - Exodus 29:42

The burnt offering of Leviticus Chapter 1 is the first and most important sacrifice of the Old Testament. It was done voluntarily by an individual offering an unblemished animal to a priest at the door of the tabernacle. The offeror would lay his hand upon the animal’s head, confess his sin and kill the animal before the priest who then sprinkled the animal’s blood round about upon the altar making atonement for the offeror’s sin: *“the priest shall make an atonement for his sin that he hath committed, and it shall be forgiven him”* (Leviticus 4:35). A person was not to come forth to seek forgiveness unless *“his sin...come to his knowledge”* (Leviticus 4:28). Any other sin remained unknown and unaddressed by the offeror.

What happens with unknown sins? God knows about them and scripture confirms that it is impossible for a person to ever know all his sins: *“Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults”* (Psalm 19:12). Secret faults are unknown sins. Because sin separates us from God it is fortunate for us that God has promised to forgive all past sins, even those of which we are not aware of. As with the burnt offering, God promises to forgive our unknown sins if we too come forth to confess the sins that trouble us: *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9). Hence, we need not search our heart to uncover what God has not revealed to us.

The ‘cleansing’ of sin just spoken of was affected by the blood of the burnt offering for *“without shedding of blood is no remission”* (Hebrews 9:22). It was the animal blood sprinkled by the priest that made the atonement, or payment to God, for the debt of sin: *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul”* (Leviticus 17:11). However, the animal blood was not a permanent answer to sin as the sacrifice had to be done over and over again: *“For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect”* (Hebrews 10:1).

The continual burnt offering for sin ceased in the New Testament with the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. There He replaced the Old Testament blood of animals with that of His own: *“Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second”* (Hebrews 10:9). And where the Old Testament priests repeatedly made offerings for past sin, today we need only to confess once: *“we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus once for all”* (Hebrews 10:10). When a person is washed in the blood of the Lamb *“there is no more offering for sin”* (Hebrews 10:18) because the blood of Jesus provides continual coverage for past sins.

As it was in the Old Testament, only those sins which come to our attention and which trouble our conscience should be confessed; then only at the door of the tabernacle where the priest is and where God speaks to us. And the priest today is a fellow believer in Christ as all believers are of *“a royal priesthood”* (1 Peter 2:9). So, feel free to confess your sin to another believer who can proclaim the word of reconciliation to you, *“be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee”* (Matthew 9:2). God gives the faith to believe.

God’s Peace,
Charles Korhonen